Remarks

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on November 24, 2000. Upon entrance of the amendments set out above, claims 1-10 and 19-31 remain pending in this application.

In his Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 3-6, 8-14 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Frank. The Examiner also rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Frank. Response is hereby made to these rejections.

An initial telephone interview was held on March 22, 2001 between the Examiner and Applicant's attorney, Joseph Byrne. Subsequent telephone interviews were held on March 26, 2001 and April 12, 2001. Claims 1, 11, 19 and 26 were discussed. The Examiner agreed during these interviews that claims 1-10 and 19-31 are allowable over Frank. The Examiner, however, concluded that a new search would be required for these claims. The Examiner continued to maintain his rejection of claims 11-18 as anticipated by Frank.

At the conclusion of these interviews, Applicant agreed to file this Amendment cancelling claims 11-18. The Examiner agreed to enter this Amendment, withdraw the finality of the November 24, 2000 Office Action and conduct a new search for the remaining claims pending in the application.

It should be understood that Applicant does not agree with the Examiner that claims 11-18 are anticipated by Frank and is only cancelling those claims at this time to advance the prosecution of the application. Pending the outcome of the Examiner's new search, Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 11-18 as originally filed or claims having a scope consistent with claims 11-18 taking into

account any new prior art cited by the Examiner as a result of the Examiner's new search.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned below if it will aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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